

The

Call

PLUS
See pages 14-22

November, 2022
Volume 48 #11

Letter



L-Tatro model 465 from 1934
Article on Page 5
Restoration by Boyd
Photo courtesy of The Radio Attic

The Northwest Vintage Radio Society

Post Office Box 82379 Portland, Oregon 97282-0379

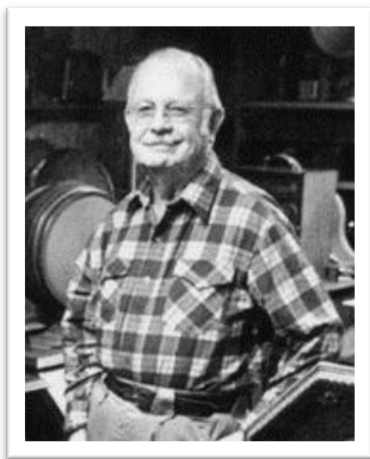
The Northwest Vintage Radio Society is a non-profit historical society incorporated in the State of Oregon. Since 1974 the Society has been dedicated to the preservation and enjoyment of “Vintage Radio” and wireless equipment. Membership is open to all. The dues are \$25.00 for domestic membership, due on January 1st of each year.

The Call Letter has been in print since 1974 and is a publication that informs members of the society’s business and that supports the hobby of collecting, restoring and preserving vintage radios.

Society meetings are held the second Saturday of most months at the Abernethy Grange Hall at 15745 S. Harley Ave. in Oregon City, Oregon. They convene at or about 9:30 AM for the purpose of displaying radios, conducting Society business, and exchanging information. Guests are welcome at all public meetings and functions.

Society functions include guest speakers, auctions, restoration classes, radio shows, technical classes and radio sales which are announced in the Call Letter and held in and around the Pacific Northwest.

With each issue of the Call Letter, we remember Jim Mason, a charter member of the society who remained active until his death in 1998. A generous bequest from Jim's estate ensures the vitality of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society, and continued publication of the Call Letter.



Society Officers

President Pat Kagi (360 909-7009)

Vice President Franklin Ouchida

Treasurer Ed Tompkins (360 635-2489)

Recording Secretary Dan Howard

Board member Mike McCrow (503) 730-4639) soundmikey14@gmail.com

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November Table of Contents

President's message	1
Meeting Minutes	2
Vice President's Notes	4
Swap Shop.....	4
L Tatro.....	5
Transistor Radios	8
100 Years Ago.....	10
Tube of the Month.....	12

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Historian/Archivist Dan Howard	nvrstdan@gmail.com
Photographer Sonny Clutter	Radiolaguy@outlook.com

Radio Repair Mentors

Members willing to mentor small groups in Radio restoration:

Blake Dietze	360 944-7172 Vancouver
Ed Tompkins	360 635-2489 Vancouver

President's Message

By Pat Kagi, President

It's that time of year again where we need to nominate and elect President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Remember that competition is a good thing and promotes a better quality product. This year, we are also nominating the NWVRS member of the year. Name and commend someone who has gone over and above to make NWVRS the best society ever.

We still need someone to organize the Christmas party. NWVRS will provide the meats and beverages, so you have less to do. We would hate to cancel Christmas this year just because we can't find enough help.

November is a special month in that it is time to bring your restoration project to the meeting and it is also the 100 year radio month, so bring in your radios that are 100 years old or older.

October Meeting Minutes

By Dan Howard, Secretary

Following a lively auction, President Pat Kagi called the October 8th, 2022 meeting of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society to order at 9:30.

After greetings, we recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Guests: The meeting attendance was about 30 with additional members joining by Zoom. Rick Walton was back for another visit. Mel Sutton rejoined following time away due recent surgery. New member Ed Zandt from Salem was welcomed.

Health and Welfare: Homer “Jim” Myers of Walla Walla, WA passed away August 14th. Both Mel Sutton and Bob Deuel are improving and we’re looking forward to seeing them around.

Secretary’s Minutes: The August minutes were approved as printed in the Call Letter. (September was the fall swap meet and no business meeting was held).

Treasurer’s Report: Our finances remain healthy.

Leads and Needs: Damon has some 1942 Zenith parts available. Columbia Springs has had some success reproducing Belmont-style plastic pushbuttons using 3-D printing. People interested in helping plan the 2024 NWVRS 50th anniversary celebration should contact Franklin.

Old Business: Fall Swap Meet - Scott and Robby reported that the extension cords and covers purchased to provide power at the swap meet tables have not been used recently and are difficult to store and transport. The group concurred with their recommendation that they be disposed of. More volunteers are needed to stay and take tables down.

New Business: The December Christmas Party will be a potluck this year. The group approved a \$200 budget for door prizes. An additional appropriation will be made for a meat entree and beverages. A Google document will be used to gauge the number of attendees and to coordinate the variety of salads and desserts that members will be bringing.

October 22nd – We have rented the Grange from 7:00 to 2:00 on October 22nd so that we can auction surplus parts and equipment from several donations to the Society. We may be doing some set up on Friday night to facilitate previewing.

The November 12th meeting will have a jam-packed agenda with numerous special features:

Nominations for 2023 officers are being sought

Nominate a member to be honored as the 2022 NWVRS member of the Year

November Display feature – century-old radios (made 1922 or earlier)

Show and present your recent restoration projects

Finish planning details for the Christmas Party

Brian Toon requested that we distribute a formal Society Roster in the near future. Pat suggested waiting until renewals have been processed in late-winter.

Tech Talk: Daniel Wells discussed the process of recreating radio backs. Daniel uses design software to create a drawing of the needed back. Then a computer-controlled router cuts the backs out of medium-density fiberboard. Remember, the tech talks are available on YouTube and are well-worth watching.

Monthly Feature: Members showed and discussed their “zero” radios. Dan Olson brought a Philco with “zero” parts. Dick Howard brought a “zero-cost” radio that was given to him and costs “zero” to operate since it is a tuner with no tubes. Dan Howard and Sonny Clutter brought radios and tubes with “zero” in their names. Franklin brought a yellow Panasonic Tune-a-Loop built in the shape of zero.

Tube of the Month: Mike McCrow introduced the type 200 detector tube.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15.

Blake Dietz and Mike McCrow continued their radio repair training : basic types of radio test equipment.

Vice President Notes

By Franklin Ouchida

**Thanks to all who help
with the Auction before
the October meeting!**

The November Meeting :

Christmas Party in Jeopardy

If we want a 2022 Christmas party,
we need volunteers to help with
organizing and planning the event!

- Feature of the Month : 100 year old radios, show radios that were made in 1922 or before.
 - Tech Talk: Cliff Tuttle – 1922 Atwater Kent Model 2 explained
 - Donate or pay your dues on line with PayPal at NWVRS.ORG@gmail.com please use Friends and Family option.
 - Update the year you joined the NWVRS. Verify that it's correct at the meeting or by email.
 - Sign up to do a Tech Talk at a meeting, in person or on Zoom.
 - Join us every Wednesday at 7:00 pm (pacific time) for WRNZ (Wednesday Radio Nights on Zoom) just as close as your computer or phone. Everyone is invited to attend and to chat about radios.
 - Help make The 50th Anniversary of NWVRS special! We need your opinion on this Momentous anniversary. Please join the 50th anniversary committee.
-

Swap Shop **WANTED:**

WANTED - Radios made in Oregon. I do have some to trade. Thanks in advance. Dick Howard (503) 775-6697 dhoward27@comcast.net

WANTED -Crosley model 52 TD, TE or TF. A.A.5 tube bakelite or wood cabinet. Bob Meyers, ka7umr@dd951.us, or 208 329 4150

- WANTED - 2 brown knobs for a Westinghouse H126 "Refrigerator Radio" - a Toshiba 7TP30 in black. (Cosmetically clean)
Searching for Packard Bell 5R1 any Parts, Part Sets and/
Or Displayable Sets in Pink, Yellow and Green.
Looking for a Arborcone Speaker for my Arborphone 26
Franklin Ouchida crazykeychains@gmail.com 971-407-8108

L Tatro

A manufacturer's profile

By Dan Howard

The March 2021 NWVRS donation auction gave us a glimmer of post-COVID hope. The small group of bidders was treated to their choice of items, many of which closed at the \$1 minimum.

Coincidentally, one of the companies that I researched during the lockdown was L Tatro, an Iowa manufacturer of farm radios with a French brand name. So, when the L Tatro console came up for auction, I was unable to resist the opportunity to bring it home for a closer look.

Though farm radios are not common in the northwest, I was able to learn more about L Tatro and their products from an article that Dennis Hilberg wrote for *Radio Age* magazine.

The L Tatro¹ Company in Decorah, IA, “was started by Lysle Tatro and his brother Dewey. Lysle had worked with electrical items for a number of years. In 1923, he went to California and studied radio engineering.” By 1926 he was employed as chief engineer at a radio factory.



LTatro dial from Ozzie Aasgaard

Photo from radio.com



L Tatro Model I465 4 tube 6 volt console awaiting auctioning

¹ Per Bob Tatro, the A and O in Tatro are pronounced long, from the French-Canadian Tetreau family name.

“In the 1920’s, rural electrification had not yet come into being. Dewey Tatro took on the sale of the Delco Light Plant and became their top salesman.”

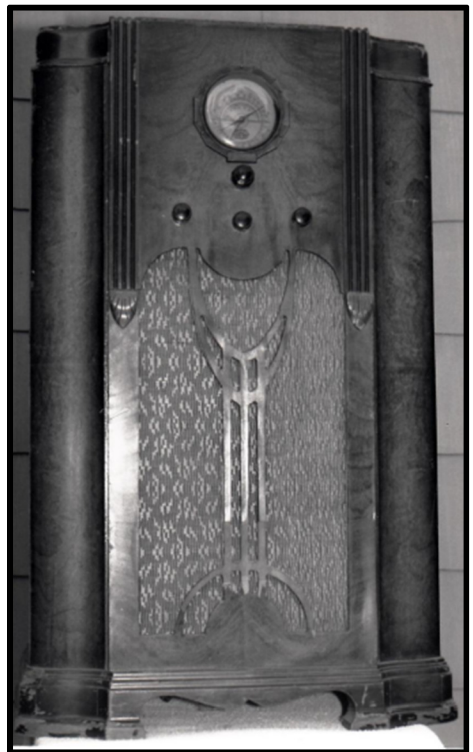
In the late 1920’s, Lysle applied for and received a patent for his original 32 volt radio. Soon, the L Tatro Products Corporation started producing radios of his design. It was small originally with only three employees and the two Tatro brothers.

“The idea of a 32 volt radio was practical due to the fact that very little of rural America at the time was served by 110 volt alternating current. However, 32 volt Delco farm lighting systems were quite common.” The L Tatro “...design uses 32 volts for the A voltage and 45 volts for the B.” Tube types such as 15, 19, 30, 33, 38, and 75 were required to make the sets operate on battery voltages.

On August 1, 1931, a retired Decorah businessman, Harry B Montgomery, bought the L Tatro company, trademarks, and all related patents. As the Depression steadily intensified, “...he saw the Tatro brother’s business as an enormous opportunity for jobs ...as well as filling a real need in the marketplace. He realized that the Tatros lacked the capital or the skills to properly take advantage of this opportunity.

Mr. Montgomery hired John Reitan to be chief engineer. “Mr. Reitan brought with him the vibrator designs which became the mainstay of the L Tatro line.

Mr. Reitan’s designs were run by either a single 6 volt storage



L Tatro Model S6636 6 tube,
6 volt superhet, 3 band
(Dennis Hilberg photo)

battery or a 32 volt power source, depending upon the model.” “There were only two connections, one to positive and one to negative.” “Soon the company became a factor in the radio market.” Riders contains data on at least 54 different models in volumes 4 through 10. “Eventually sales would cover four continents, the Middle East, and Puerto Rico. At the company’s peak in the mid-1930’s, Montgomery hired Bart Setchell (designer for the Setchell Carlson Radio line) to design new models (specifically The BQ-69, AQ-69 & the SP67, TP67). Following that “...about 400 radios were being built per day...with a price range of \$45 to \$200. Some models had interesting titles such as Mayor, Senator, Captain,



Admiral, etc., with the President being the top of the line.” As shown in the photos of the company’s radios (page 5) and advertising (above), the company valued stylish designs and logos.

By the end of the 1930’s, declining sales due to expanded electrification and fierce competition caused the company to close.

Quotes are from Dennis Hilberg “The L Tatro products Corp.”

Sources/Further Reading

Aasgaard, Laurel, “L’Tatro Radios,” *Antique Radio Classified* July, 2006.

Hilberg, Dennis, “The L. Tatro Products Corporation,” *Radio Age* October, 1989.

The Iowa Antique Radio Club and Historical Society, *Encyclopedia of Iowa Radio Manufacturers*.

Jorgenson, David, “How I became Interested in Vintage Radio,” *The Call Letter* April, 2021 pg. 10

Tatro, Bob, “L Tatro Farm Radios from the 1930’s” blog post April 1, 2007.

Transistor Radio Collector

Exceptional Early American AM Transistor Radios

First in a series by Jeff Hutchinson

My childhood years were in the 1960's. I had my Schwinn Stingray bike with banana seat, playing cards and clothespins on my spokes for motor sound effects and a transistor radio in my pocket, listening to all of the popular music while I cruised the neighborhood with my friends. While it would be neat to ride that Schwinn bike again, I stand a better chance to obtain and listen to a transistor radio from that era.

As a kid, my first transistor radio was really nothing special . Along the way, I have found some exceptional radios that impress me with their sound quality, DX capability and overall build quality. This and subsequent articles will focus on a few select early “American-made” AM transistor radios – (those with FM and multi-band features are another subject matter).

Most of the early transistor radios were either American-made or coming from Japan as imports. Eventually, production would be shifted to Hong Kong and other Asian factories to mass produce consumer radios that could be priced to compete in the market. Unfortunately, quality suffered for the most part too. We'll look at a few exceptional AM radios of the day when manufacturers spared no expense to make a performance radio using the best components and workmanship.

General Electric's P780 Series AM radios (1958-1968)

When transistor radios first appeared on the market in the mid-50's, they were initially viewed as novelties - small battery-powered pocket radios that could be taken to the park, out on a boat or while taking a walk. Really neat but the AA5 table radio set the standard for quality sound & performance at the time. In 1958, GE engineers were given a hefty budget, time and vast resources to design a portable transistor radio that would equal or exceed the best tube table radio in overall performance.

In late 1958, GE introduced the P780A portable AM radio. It was an eight transistor radio with 5" large magnet speaker that was capable of almost a full watt of undistorted audio; rich with bass tones that rivaled the best tube table radio. The radio was built like a tank using a metal frame around the PCB and a heavy metal speaker grill. It was powered by 6 long lasting D-cell batteries (25ma at normal volume) and weighed almost 11 lbs. Reception of distant stations was excellent with the long ferrite antenna and RF tuned stage. A momentary switched dial light became a feature on the entire series. The radio cabinet was a strong

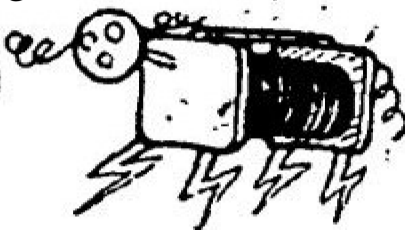


“pebbled texture” impact resistant plastic with a unique ginger-brown color. The P780 series continued for about a decade with a new model suffix each year. The P780A, B, D, E, F had minor changes. The P780G had a telescoping antenna which made little difference in AM reception and was discontinued on later models. A big change came with the P780H when a 9th transistor was added and the audio output section was redesigned.

In 1966, the P783A was introduced and in 1968 the P784A was introduced. Their chassis was similar to the P780H with changes to the speaker grill design. The plastic cabinet was identical but the color was changed to a chocolate brown color. All models are impressive in sound quality and reception capability. If you are looking for one, I would suggest the P780H, P783A or P784A with the additional transistor and newer audio output circuit.

100 Years Ago

Radio Bugs



By Charter Member Art Redman

Halowat Regeneration Receiver

The “*Single Circuit*”

Halowat radio made by Hallock and Watson,

refers to their

regenerative receiver

and was one of their

first radio products

appearing in the

Oregonian. The

Halowat brand first

appeared March 22,

1922, in both the

Oregonian and *Oregon*

Journal. The one tube

Single Circuit sold as a

Halowat kit during July

1922 for \$23.00. One week later the price was \$23.90 and could be bought completely assembled at their store on 192 SW Park Avenue.



**Here's the Parts
for your
“Single Circuit”**

- 1—Northwestern variocoupler
- 1—.0008 vernier condenser
- 1—Klönser vernier rheostat
- 2—4-inch Premier dials
- 1—Grid condenser and leak
- 1—Bridge condenser
- 1—Audion socket
- 1—D. C. C. jack
- 1—Hard rubber mahoganite panel 3-16x8x15
- 8—Insulated top binding posts
- 1—Switch, 12 points, 2 stops
- 1—Oak sub base

\$23.90 Complete

We Copied Seattle and Great Falls on Our Sample
DROP IN AND SEE IT

HALLOCK & WATSON

192 Park St. Portland, Ore.

“KGG”—The Journal's Broadcasters

Hallock and Watson were the marketing agents for the *Northwestern Radio Manufacturing* during 1922, headed by Charley Austin. A *Northwestern* variocoupler was connected to a twelve-point 2 two stop switch to control regeneration in the plate circuit of the receiver. The secondary of the variocoupler when connected in series to the plate and Booster or “B+” battery acts as a tickler coil and produces regeneration. The other parts were the standard grid capacitor, bridge capacitor, and grid leak resistor. A

Klosner vernier rheostat controls the six-volt filament voltage of the A battery for the *Audion* tube.

A four-inch diameter *Premier* brand dial connected to an 800 pf variable vernier (I could not find a variable capacitor of this value, probably a mistake) capacitor acting as a trimmer for tuning the antenna circuit. The frequency covered was Very Low Frequency. The kit also included an oak sub-base, and a 3/16" thick x 8" wide x 15" long hard rubber *mahoganite* brand panel, eight Insulate binding posts, and a D.C.C. phone jack. A two-stage audio amplifier and *Magnavox* can be connected to provide entertainment to a large crowd and was written up in several articles in the Portland area newspapers.

Sources:

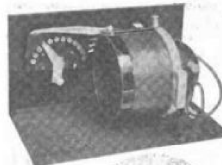
"Halowat single circuit ad,"
Oregon Journal, July 2,
1922, page 6.

"Single Circuit" ad. Oregon
Journal July 9, 1922.

"Radio for Camping Trip
Can Easily be Arranged,"
Oregonian, June 25, 1922,
page 6.

HERE SHE IS!

THE NEW NORTHWESTERN VARIOCOUPLER

Panel $9\frac{1}{2} \times 5\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{4}$.	XX Bakelite Throughout.	"No Dielectric" Rotor.
Twelve point back connected Switch.	Aluminum Brackets.	Silver Plated.
Wire—No. 20 Double Silk, Green.	Mounted Unit as shown \$15.00	Unmounted Coupler Only \$6.50
We're Trebling the Factory.	HALLOCK AND WATSON RADIO SERVICE	
	122 PARK STREET	PORTLAND, ORE.



—WANTABUILD—
**SINGLE CIRCUIT
SET?**

We Can Now Supply
ALL PARTS
For This Type
RECEIVER
and

\$22.75 AUDION DETECTOR
less Phones, Tube and Batteries

See the sample at our store

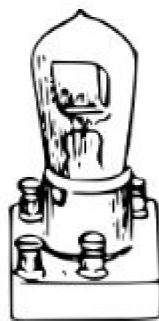
HALLOCK & WATSON
192 Park St. Bet. Yamhill and Taylor

Tube for November: Type 10

by Mike McCrow

The type 10, or UX-10 was first announced by RCA in September of 1925. It is a four pin directly heated triode. Commonly used as a power amplifier, although can be used as an oscillator. Filament voltage is 7.5 volts @ 1.25 amperes. Used in AC sets (but can be used in DC as well). The high filament current is not practical for battery radios.

In an AC power supply the grid and plate return should be connected to a 20 to 40 ohm resistor mid tapped across the filament winding. Plate voltage is 425 Volts max at 18 milliamperes; Grid voltage at -39. Grid voltage on AC radios is obtained using the self-biasing method. Using a dropping resistor connected in the negative plate return lead.



The type 10 was replaced by tubes such as the 45, 47, and 42.

Mike McCrow discussed and displays the UX-200 Tube at the October meeting. Each month we feature a tube-of-the-month and Mike researches and explains it at the meeting.



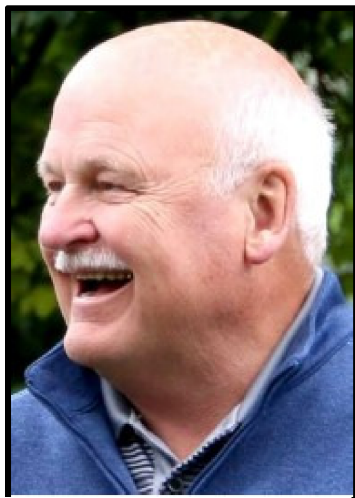
In Memory of Warren Wright

(From the Moscow-Pullman Daily news, June 2021)

On March 16, 2021, Warren Neale Wright, loving husband, father, stepfather and grandpa (Silly Grandpa) passed away at home at the age of 75 after a yearlong battle with brain cancer.

Warren was born in McMinnville, Ore., to Neale and Edith. He attended Foothill College, Oregon State University, and graduated from San Diego State University with a degree in cinematography in 1969. He worked his entire career in public television and produced several documentaries, including “Civilization: Egypt and the Middle East” and a film about Jane Goodall and her work with chimpanzees. He ended his 40-year public television career in 2009 at Washington State University as manager of the two public television stations.

Warren was very creative and enjoyed multiple hobbies over his lifetime. He had a knack for fixing anything and everything around the house and was always willing to help a friend or neighbor resolve a problem. His woodworking skills resulted in many beautiful pieces, including fine furniture. He absorbed himself in family genealogy and **restoring antique radios** in his retirement years. He loved bird-watching, music, photography and gardening. He was known for his quick wit, infectious smile, his impeccable integrity and his kind and compassionate spirit.



Historian, cinematographer, scholar, and radio collector.



Wife Elaine & Daughter Carrie visit the October meeting of NWVRS when we auctioned Warren's radio parts inventory.



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